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| Children's Education and Care Assurance | | |
| 18 March 2020  **COVID-19 information for ACT education and care services**  ACT Health is working closely with educational facilities, including ACT schools and education and care services, to monitor and respond to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.  At the moment it is safe for our children to be at school and in education and care services. The ACT Government is recommending, based on health advice and consistent with other states and territories, that schools and education and care services remain open for the foreseeable future.  Plans have been developed to respond to the potential spread of COVID-19 in educational facilities. The plans are scaled in proportion to the spread of the virus and based on the latest health advice and learnings from other jurisdictions in Australia and abroad.  For example, if children or staff member were to test positive to the virus, the impacted facility may close for a short period while ACT Health investigates the incident. Those children and staff identified as close contacts of a case would need to self-quarantine at home for 14 days.  At this point in time, the best way to minimise transmission of COVID-19 is for children and staff to continue [practising good hand and respiratory hygiene measures](https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/novel-coronavirus-covid-19/protect-yourself) to prevent the spread of germs.  Unnecessary self- isolation will impact the ability of ACT education and care services to operate and may force unnecessary closures. This could have a negative impact on the broader ACT community and impact unduly on education and care operations.  It is important to reassure staff that unless they have been exposed to a case of COVID-19, have recently returned from overseas or are experiencing symptoms including fever, cough, sore throat, and shortness of breath or, they should continue coming to work.  More information for providers, services and educators can be found on the ACT Health [website](https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/novel-coronavirus-covid-19/education).  For enquires in relation to this notification please call CECA on (02) 6207 1114 or email [CECA@ACT.gov.au](mailto:CECA@ACT.gov.au).  This email has been authorised by the ACT Regulatory Authority (CECA). CECA are responsible for administering the National Quality Framework within the ACT. | | |

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